Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 H-02 /014 R

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TAGS: OXEC, IN

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE PROGRAM -- CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN DENIAL OF INDIAN VISA TO AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

- 1. SENATOR SCOTT WROTE DEPARTMENT IN OCTOBER ASKING US TO FIND OUT REASON GOI REFUSED VISA TO MS. JOAN KUTCHER OF PHILADELPHIA. MS. KUTCHER HAD BEEN AWARDED A JANUARY 1974 SMITHSONAIN FELLOWSHIP TO GO TO INDIA AND TRANSLATE FROM THE TIBETAN THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE FIRST DALAI LAMA.
- 2. INDIAN EMBASSY HAS REPLIED TO OUR REPEATED INQUIRIES BY SAYING THAT VISA WAS "PROBABLY" TURNED DOWN BY HOME MINISTRY BECAUSE MS. KUTCHER'S PROJECT WOULD HAVE INVOLVED RESEARCH IN A SENSITIVE AREA, THE TIBETAN EXILE COMMUNITY.
- 3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S TRYING TO ASCERTAIN IF, INDEED, KUTCHER WAS DENIED VISA BECAUSE OF GOI SENSITIVITIES ON TIBETANS. WE DO NOT KNOW MONTH VISA WAS DENIED BUT SUSPECT APPROXIMATE TIME WAS MID-1974.

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4. MS. KUTCHER HAS EVIDENTLY ABANDONED PLANNED RESEARCH

PROJECT; THEREFORE, ONLY REQUIREMENT IS FOR INFORMATION

WITH WHICH TO ANSWER SENATOR SCOTT'S INQUIRY. INGERSOLL

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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